

THE HOUSE'S RIGHTS

Ways and Means Committee Directed to Investigate.

POWER FOR RECIPROCITY TREATIES

Oleomargarine Bill Made Special Order for Monday.

MORGAN ON PHILIPPINES

When the House of Representatives met today Mr. Dailzell (Pa.) from the committee on rules reported favorably the Tawney resolution, introduced yesterday, to direct the ways and means committee to investigate the question of whether the treaty-making power could negotiate reciprocity treaties affecting the customs revenues without action by Congress, and asked for action upon it.

Mr. Dailzell said that the question involved one of the highest and most sacred privileges of the House. As it concerned the relations between the two houses, he thought action should be deliberately taken after the subject had been duly considered by a committee.

Mr. Underwood (Ala.), also a member of the committee on rules, joined with Mr. Dailzell in urging the adoption of the resolution. The settlement of the disputed question in favor of the House, he said, was necessary if the lower house expected to maintain its prerogative.

"Is there any instance where the treaty-making power has exercised this prerogative?" asked Mr. Moody (Mass.). "The resolution was adopted without division," he replied.

The Oleomargarine Bill.

Mr. Dailzell followed this with another from the same committee to make the oleomargarine bill a special order for Monday next, to continue until disposed of. Mr. Dailzell urged that, regardless of the merits of the bill, the House should have an opportunity to discuss and pass upon it.

Mr. Richardson (Tenn.), the minority leader, saw no reason why this piece of legislation should be picked out and given special consideration.

Mr. Underwood (Ala.) was opposed to the proposed legislation, and declared that its opponents should begin the fight now on the question of its merits.

Mr. Grosvenor (Ohio) also declared himself uncompromisingly opposed to the proposed legislation and all kindred legislation. He believed that the House should be free to the liberties of the country; that under its operation the strong could crush the weak. Nevertheless as there was a public demand for the consideration of the bill, he believed that the House should have an opportunity to pass upon it, and for that reason he would support the resolution to make it a special order.

On roll call the special order was adopted—132 to 71.

Mr. Richardson (Tenn.) presented as a matter of privilege a resolution, with numerous whereases reciting the pendency in the Senate of commercial treaties and bills affecting the customs and revenues, and declaring it to be the sense of the House that such treaties and bills invaded one of the highest prerogatives of the House.

Mr. Payne Makes Point of Order.

Mr. Payne, the majority floor leader, made the point of order that the resolution was not privileged. He contended that until the Senate actually acted on the bill, the rights of the House nothing had been done which constituted a matter of privilege here. Mr. Payne incidentally declared that he agreed with Mr. Richardson that the Senate could not invade the privileges of the House, but that the House could not invade the power of the Senate if it did not, in his opinion, constitute a question of privilege.

Speaker Henderson called Mr. Richardson's attention to the fact that a threat of invasion was not an infringement.

Mr. Richardson then declared that it was time to meet the issue. The claim was being set up on the floor of the Senate that the House was invading the rights of the Senate. The House was actually being invaded by Congress were uprooted.

Senate or any of its members?" asked Mr. Jenkins (Wis.).

"Perhaps not," replied Mr. Richardson, "but it is a question of position."

Mr. Tawney (Minn.) argued that more would be accomplished by allowing the ways and means committee to report upon the subject after investigation of the law than by the adoption of a simple declaration now.

Point of Order Sustained.

Speaker Henderson sustained the point of order against Mr. Richardson's resolution.

The House then began the consideration of claim bills.

SENATE.

When the Senate met today it adopted a resolution offered a few days ago by Mr. Rawlins (Utah) providing for a general inquiry by the committee on Indian affairs into the matter of leasing mineral lands by Indians into the authority of the Interior Department to approve such leases, and in the subject of the connection of government officials with the making of such leases.

A bill was passed requiring physicians to report to the health authorities all cases of typhoid fever in the District of Columbia.

At the conclusion of routine business, the resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Rawlins directing the Secretary of War to inform the Senate whether what is known as the "sedition laws" have been promulgated by the Philippine commission, and if so the date of such promulgation, was passed without comment.

The Senate then decided, on motion of Mr. Hale, that when it adjourns today it be until Monday next.

The bill reported recently from the judiciary committee fixing the salaries of certain United States judges was taken up for consideration at the instance of Mr. Hoar, chairman of the committee.

The bill increases the annual salaries of the federal judiciary.

Mr. Hoar made a brief statement in support of the measure. He believed members of the judiciary of the United States would be enabled to maintain suitable and proper positions.

The judicial salaries paid by the government were not equal to those paid by many of the great states of the Union to the judges of the state courts.

Referring particularly to the justices of the Supreme Court, he declared that they could make ten times the amount of the salaries proposed in practice at the bar.

Mr. Berry (Ark.) opposed the measure. He believed that \$10,000 a year was enough to enable them to live respectably.

He returned the statement that many people thought the justices were not worth \$10,000 a year. They were receiving, he said, double the salaries of senators and representatives in Congress and had no right to complain.

Mr. Stewart (Nev.) made a strong plea for the enactment of the bill.

Mr. Blackburn (Ky.), a member of the judiciary committee, vigorously opposed the measure, not so much because he thought the salaries proposed were too high as because he felt that there ought to be a general revision of salaries paid to officials of the government.

Mr. Spooner (Wis.) supported the bill, and said there were cases where men had re-

fused appointments on the Supreme bench because the salaries were inadequate.

Mr. Stewart gave notice of an amendment to the bill providing that the salaries of senators and representatives in Congress should be \$7,500 a year.

Mr. McCormack (Md.), Mr. Hawley (Conn.) and Mr. Fairbanks (Ind.) supported the measure.

Mr. Hawley advocated the amendment of Mr. Stewart to increase the salaries of senators and representatives in Congress.

Mr. Morgan on the Philippines.

At 2 o'clock the Philippine tariff bill was taken up.

Mr. Morgan (Ala.) addressed the Senate. He said he had not heard of any amendment to the bill that is proposed to be laid, and took it for granted that the tariff was just and necessary. He argued that Congress had no constitutional authority to levy a discriminating tariff either imposing duties upon the trade between the United States and the Philippines.

"I believe in the doctrine of free trade in all parts of the United States, whether covered by the Constitution, the flag or both," he said.

CUBA'S CRY FOR AID.

Many Cable Messages Urging Favorable Action by Congress.

A flood of cablegrams has been pouring in upon the President, the Secretary of War and other officials, urging favorable action by the United States Congress on the application for tariff concessions on Cuban sugar and tobacco. Among the mass of these messages received by the President is one from Mr. A. Doughty, chairman of a joint committee of pork packing interests of the United States in Havana, earnestly requesting him to continue his efforts to obtain tariff concessions for Cuba.

Chief Justice Nieto, representing the audience of Santiago, has asked Secretary Root to exert his influence to obtain a favorable decision of the Cuban economic problem. "Without United States material aid," says Chief Justice Nieto, "the development of Cuba's immense resources is impossible and the sacrifice of men and money already consumed for the constitution of a new American nation will be futile."

Mr. Grosvenor (Ohio) also declared himself uncompromisingly opposed to the proposed legislation and all kindred legislation. He believed that the House should be free to the liberties of the country; that under its operation the strong could crush the weak. Nevertheless as there was a public demand for the consideration of the bill, he believed that the House should have an opportunity to pass upon it, and for that reason he would support the resolution to make it a special order.

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DISTRICT IN CONGRESS

ACTION TAKEN BY SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL MEASURES.

Bill to Regulate the Collection of Taxes Favorably Reported—Height of Buildings Discussed.

The Senate committee on the District of Columbia held a meeting today and ordered favorable reports on several bills of local importance. There were present at the meeting Senators McMillan, Gallinger, Hansbrough, Stewart, Dillingham, Foster, Martin, Mallory, Hittelfield and Clark of Montana.

The committee ordered a favorable report on House bill 4572, to regulate the collection of taxes in the District of Columbia. This bill was passed by the House of Representatives on the 13th instant. It was reported without any amendment. It provides that beginning with the fiscal year July 1, 1902, the whole tax on real and personal property in the District of Columbia shall be payable in the month of May of each year.

It also provides that on and after the 1st of November of each year the tax may be paid in two equal installments, the first in November and the second in May, but that a penalty shall accrue for delinquency on the following June. If the whole or any part of the tax upon real and personal property shall not be paid before the first day of June in each year it shall thereafter be in arrears and delinquent, and the penalty of 1 per cent per month shall be charged on it until paid.

House bill 4783, to require cases of typographical error occurring in the District of Columbia to be reported to the health department, was also acted upon favorably and will be reported to the Senate without amendment.

This bill was passed by the House on January 27, and it provides that every physician called to visit any case of typographical error in the District of Columbia shall notify the health officer. A violation of this law will be punishable by a fine of \$100.

Arrangements of Taxes.

The committee also authorized a favorable report on House bill 10078, relating to arrangements of taxes due the District of Columbia. The bill is amended, changing the date when its provisions shall go into effect from July 1, 1900, to December 31, 1902. It provides that the rate of interest on the taxes of any person owing arrears of general taxes shall be higher than 1880, shall be 6 per cent per annum in lieu of penalties fixed by law. This act will be effective on taxes paid on or before December 31, 1902.

The committee spent some time in discussing the question of the height of buildings in the District of Columbia. It was argued by members of the committee that the government will in the future erect buildings of a classic style that some of the existing buildings of the city are facing the Atlantic, promised to share its fate. Within an hour this block was destroyed, but as the fire laid hold of Watt, Dodson & Grandy's wholesale notions buildings, driving the Western Union operators from the office in the Dodson building. All these were threatened, but all were saved.

It was suggested that there were portions of the city in which the necessities of business are so great that perhaps some exception should be made, but as a general rule the height of buildings should be regulated by the committee as undesirable to permit high buildings in very many sections. It was argued that in the case of residence houses the height of buildings should be regulated by the committee as undesirable to permit high buildings in very many sections. It was argued that in the case of residence houses the height of buildings should be regulated by the committee as undesirable to permit high buildings in very many sections.

The whole matter was discussed in an informal way and no action was taken further than to refer the subject to the committee on the District of Columbia.

Convention of Episcopal Church.

In the case of Senate bill 1845, to amend the act to incorporate the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the diocese of Washington, the committee ordered a favorable report on the amendment.

This bill has been favorably reported on by the Commissioners, and gives the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church authority to receive and hold subscriptions, etc., for the purpose of erecting a residence, diocesan house, church, college, etc., and for the purpose of creating a permanent fund for endowment for the support of the diocese and other agencies of the church.

It provides that such funds shall be kept distinct and separate.

Unless the amendment shall be accepted by resolution of the convention of the diocese at its next annual meeting and the proceeds of the assessments laid out hereafter for the extension of Rhode Island avenue, New Hampshire and Sherman avenues, S. W. and 11th streets.

Local Bills in the House.

A bill carrying an appropriation of \$3,887.90 to refund certain liquor taxes "erroneously collected" from certain wholesale and retail liquor dealers in the District of Columbia engaged in business March 3, 1893, has been introduced in the House.

Mr. Meyer has introduced a bill in the House authorizing the District Commissioners to audit and pay five certificates of indebtedness to the District of Columbia making sufficient appropriation to pay the amounts with interest.

Smallpox at Belmont, Ohio.

FREEMONT, Ohio, January 31.—Cause of the prevalence of smallpox in this city the board of education has decided to close all public schools for ten days. No new cases are reported up to last night.

Death of Miss Cora B. Wilde.

The many Washington friends of Miss Cora B. Wilde will hear with sorrow the news of her death at El Paso, Tex., Wednesday. Miss Wilde had been private secretary to the chief clerk of the Treasury Department for several years, up to last fall, when she sought a transfer to the office of the collector of customs at Nogales, Ariz., in the hope that the climate of the southwest might improve her health, the disease of tuberculosis having fastened itself upon her.

Miss Wilde was universally beloved by her associates in the Treasury Department. None feels her loss more keenly than Mr. Hill, states that Miss Wilde came on to Washington from the administrative office of the world's fair at Chicago with high town, and lodgings were arranged for her in the classified civil service and finally landed in grade until she was a clerk of class three.

Miss Wilde's mother was with her in the southwest when she passed away, and the southwest was the family home at Fort Madison, Iowa, for interment.

Steamship Arrival.

At New York—Scotia, from Naples.

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BIG FIRE IN NORFOLK

Atlantic Hotel and Several Other Big Buildings Burn.

DAMAGE OVER HALF A MILLION

Guests of the Hotel Escape in Scant Attire.

AWAKED BY PROPRIETOR

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

NORFOLK, Va., January 31.—A heap of smoking ruins is all that this morning remains of the once magnificent Atlantic Hotel of Norfolk and of the great Columbia office building adjoining, and of the Albemarle state and a block of stores. The loss will be at least half a million dollars, but it is believed that it is fully covered by insurance.

The Columbia office building, six stories high, built by Mr. Davis Lowenberg in 1892 and now owned by him, burst into flames at 1:55 o'clock this morning. Over a thousand gallons of whisky exploded with terrific force, tearing out the front of the great building.

The firemen were driven back by the explosion, and before the steamers could get a stream on the fire the entire building was in flames.

Hardly fifteen minutes later the seventy-five-foot-high northern wall fell, smashing like a house of cards the home of the Virginia Club, adjoining it on the north. From the first it was evident that the immense Atlantic Hotel would be a total loss, and across an intervening lane was doomed.

Hotel Guests Notified.

The proprietor of the Atlantic, J. Hull Davidson, added by his staff, aroused every guest in the building. To his heroic efforts is due the fact that so far as now known no life was lost, although perhaps 300 people were asleep in the hotel when the alarm was sounded. Half-dressed men and women refugees from the burning towers, they were seen in the streets, carrying such small belongings as they were able to save in their flight.

The firemen look upon the important business district as doomed. The five-story Albemarle apartment house, opposite the Virginia Club, was on fire, and the entire block of buildings, including the hotel, facing the Atlantic, promised to share its fate. Within an hour this block was destroyed, but as the fire laid hold of Watt, Dodson & Grandy's wholesale notions buildings, driving the Western Union operators from the office in the Dodson building. All these were threatened, but all were saved.

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MR. O'CONNELL DISMISSED

FINANCIAL CLERK OF BUREAU OF STATISTICS REMOVED.

Friction Between Him and His Chief—Case Personally Investigated by Secretary Gage.

Secretary Gage signalled his last day in the Treasury Department by discharging J. D. O'Connell, financial clerk of the bureau of statistics. Mr. O'Connell was dismissed after a short hearing, upon charges preferred by Assistant Secretary Allen and O. P. Austin, chief of the bureau to which Mr. O'Connell has been attached. Trouble has been brewing in the clerical force of the bureau of statistics for a year and a half, it is said, dating from the time that Mr. O'Connell's work was changed upon orders from Mr. Allen. A large number of mistakes were found in the proof of the Secretary's annual report. Mr. O'Connell passed upon by Mr. O'Connell. The latter objected to the change and it is said that Mr. O'Connell "got into a bad temper" with Mr. Austin, whom he blamed for the order affecting him. A few days ago he preferred charges against his chief before the civil service commission, asserting that Mr. Austin was using government help, time and material in the preparation of magazine articles. He also charged Mr. Austin with taking an undue interest in political matters.

Secretary Gage exonerated Mr. Austin of the charges preferred by O'Connell. At the same time he dismissed the latter.

Real Reason for Dismissal.

It is stated at the treasury this afternoon that the charges made against Mr. Austin by Mr. O'Connell were not the grounds at all on which O'Connell was dismissed. The real reason of the dismissal was that Mr. Austin filed charges against O'Connell of ransacking his private papers for the purpose of obtaining evidence to substantiate his charges. This was considered by Secretary Gage as most serious offense, and when the charge was substantiated he did not hesitate to terminate at once the employment of O'Connell from the service of the government. It is further stated that Secretary Gage has been practically two weeks of earnest investigation into this case, and has not reached his conclusion until last night, when he felt fully satisfied that the investigation warranted his action. Secretary Gage said that he had no opportunity to present his side of the case, and has kept it open from day to day that Mr. O'Connell might have a chance to explain. He stated the charges he made against Mr. Austin. Mr. O'Connell failed to do this. Secretary Gage has written a full history of the case, and has placed it in his hands for the purpose of future reference. He stated that he characterizes the charges against Mr. Austin as trivial, inconsequential and untrue, and that he has no evidence to substantiate them. He calls attention to article 4 of the amendments to the Constitution, which gives the right of the citizen to be secure in his person, house, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Importance of the Case.

The O'Connell case is one of the most important investigated by Secretary Gage during his term of office, and a good deal of feeling has been caused over it. It is stated this afternoon that Mr. O'Connell's charges against Assistant Secretary Allen, in addition to the charges against Mr. Austin, in view of the fact that Mr. Allen himself was involved in the charges that were made Secretary Gage concluded to investigate the matter himself. He has now completed his investigation, and is satisfied that he has acted for the best interest of the service. What the charges against Mr. O'Connell were are not known. It is declared that Mr. O'Connell will make further trouble, and will possibly demand a congressional investigation. All the papers in the case are on file in the treasury, and it is said he will be made available to the proper persons.

The Pope and Catholic Dissensions.

From the Tablet.

Both young and old, the holy father said at Christmas, were wanted in the Christian movement for the uplifting of the people; and young and old must work hand in hand. These frequent exhortations of the pope to union among Catholics suggest the existence of causes of dissension. There are Catholics of the old school, fond of a quiet life, who refuse to take note of the changed conditions of the times; on the other hand, there are ardent young spirits who, for the sake of the honor of the past and all, who seek to impress their own ideas whole